

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-04

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R 270801Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1784

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1204

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, ZA, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NEW HOPE FOR SOLUTION?

1. AT LUNCHEON MEETING JUNE 26, JAMES CHICKEREMA, OF ANC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, STRUCK UNUSUALLY OPTIMISTIC NOTE IN EXPRESSING BELIEF THAT IAN SMITH NOW APPEARS READY FOR SOME SOLUTION IN RHODESIA REALITY OF FREE MOZAMBIQUE HAS CONVINCED SMITH THAT WHITE RHODESIANS, NOT BLACK AFRICANS, STAND TO LOSE MOST OF PRINCIPAL TRADE ROUTE TO INDIAN OCEAN BLOCKED OR ENDANGERED. CHICKEREMA DOUBTS MACHEL WILL IMPOSE SANCTIONS SOON. HE BELIEVES SMITH HAS ALSO TAKEN AT FACE VALUE SOUTH AFRICAN WARNING OF SOME MONTHS AGO THAT IT COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE ALL OF RHODESIA'S EXPORT AND IMPORT TRADE THROUGH SOUTH AFRICAN RAIL AND PORT SYSTEM.

2. CHICKEREMA FURTHER SURPRISED ME BY SAYING IT WAS IAN SMITH WHO HAD ASKED ZAMBIA TO RECEIVE VISIT OF 6 RHODESIAN FRONT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (SEPTTEL), INTRODUCE THEM TO

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SUCCESSFUL BLACK PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN AND

DEMONSTRATE WORKABILITY OF MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY.
CHICKEREMA DESCRIBED VISIT AS STUNNING EYE-OPENER,
ESPECIALLY FOR ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE RACISTS IN GROUP.

3. CHICKEREMA'S BIGGEST SURPRISE OF DAY WAS HIS STATE-
MENT THAT SMITH COULD ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE, BUT TO SELL IT
TO FRONT, A ROSE OF ANOTHER NAME MUST BE FOUND WHICH WILL
STILL BE SEMANTICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICANS AS MAJORITY
RULE BUT TO WHITES AS SHARING POWER ONLY. SAID SMITH
NEEDED CONVERT HARD CORE OF FRONT AND FIND THREE-FOURTHS
FAVORABLE MAJORITY WITHIN PARLIAMENT WHEN QUESTION OF
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE COMES UP FOR VOTE.

4. CHICKEREMA SAID ANC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HEADED BY
BISHOP MUZOREWA, WHICH INCLUDES HIMSELF, SITHOLE AND
NKOMO WILL CONVENE IN NEXT FEW DAYS IN LUSAKA OR DAR ES
SALAAM TO CONSULT ON NEXT STEPS TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL
CONFERENCE, AND, WAS IMPLIED, TO QUERY IF NOT DISCIPLINE
JOSHUA NKOMO FOR UPSETTING UNITED ANC FRONT IN SEEKING TO
CONVENE ANC CONGRESS PRIOR TO CONVOCATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL
CONFERENCE.

5. ASKED ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN RHODESIA, CHICKEREMA
REPORTED RESIDUAL CONTINGENT OF 200 BEING RETAINED BY SAG PM
VORSTER AS EVIDENCE--IF NEEDED-- FOR HIS ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE
WING THAT RHODESIA NOT, RPT. NOT, COMPLETELY ABANDONED BY BIG
BROTHER. CHICKEREMA ASKED IF USG HAD THOUGHT OF DOING SOMETHING
BEYOND MERE RHETORICAL SUPPORT FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND
CONTINUING ADMINISTRATION ENDORSEMENT OF BYRD AMENDMENT
REPEAL.

6. ASKED TO ELABORATE, CHICKEREMA SAID HE CHARGED BY
BISHOP MUZOREWA TO SOLICIT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHEREVER
HE COULD FOR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND EDUCATION AMONG
BLACKS IN RHODESIA. MENTIONED SUPPORT FROM PRIVATE
CHURCH GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS IN U.S. ALSO CLAIMED JOSHUA
NKOMO HAS FOR LONG TIME RECEIVED PRIVATE FINANCIAL HELP FROM
UNITED ARTISTS CORP. BOARD CHAIRMAN, ARTHUR B. KRIM. MOST
RECENTLY NKOMO PROVIDED WITH JEEPS AND OTHER TRANSPORT BY KRIM
AND FRIENDS.

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7. CHICKEREMA THEN SAID 80 THOUSAND DOLLARS WOULD GO A LONG
WAY TOWARD PURCHASE OF MOTOR BIKES AND POSSIBLY PA SYSTEMS
TO HELP ANC POLITICAL ORGANIZERS AND TRAINERS. I WAS NONCOM-
MITTAL IN REPLY, SAYING ONLY WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER ALTHOUGH
IT WAS RATHER UNCOMMON REQUEST.

8. THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA'S LIFE IN DANGER WAS CONFIRMED BY

CHICKEREMA WHO SAID HE WAS ALSO CHARGED BY ANC CHAIRMAN
TO ORGANIZE AND FINANCE SECURITY GUARD FOR BISHOP'S PERSONAL
PROTECTION, WHICH HE HAS DONE.

9. COMMENT: UNTIL I HAVE TALKED AT LEAST WITH PRESIDENTIAL
COUNSELOR CHONA, AND BISHOP MUZOREWA AND GOTTEN SOME SENSE
OF RESULTS OF VISIT OF MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS TO RHODESIA
AND HOW BRITISH SEE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT, AM RELUCTANT TO
LEAN EXCLUSIVELY ON OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF CHICKEREMA THAT
RHODESIAN PROBLEM IS INDEED AT MATURATION POINT. HOWEVER,
THAT CHICKEREMA, PREVIOUSLY QUITE PESSIMISTIC THAT RHODESIAN
WHITES WOULD AGREE TO MAJORITY RULE WITHOUT FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL
BLOODSHED, NOW SO OPTIMISTIC IS IN ITSELF NOTEWORTHY.
WILKOWSKI

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